Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a search query;

determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

determining whether to rewrite the received search query based on information

relating to prior searches involving the entity name;

rewriting the received search query when it is determined that the received search

query should be rewritten based on the information relating to the prior searches;

automatically performing a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~

the rewritten search query to obtain search results; and

presenting the search results.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a link to the received search query ~~when the search is performed based~~

~~on the rewritten search query~~.

3-6.   (canceled)

7.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to

rewrite the received search query comprises:

identifying entity identifiers associated with documents that were selected in

connection with the prior searches involving the entity name,

determining a total number of selections for each of the identified entity

identifiers, and

determining that the received search query should be rewritten when an entity

identifier associated with the entity name receives a total number of selections greater

than other ones of the identified entity identifiers.

8.   (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the determining whether to

rewrite the received search query further comprises:

determining whether the total number of selections for the entity identifier

associated with the entity name is greater than a threshold, and

determining that the received search query should not be rewritten when the total

number of selections for the entity identifier associated with the entity name is not greater

than the threshold.

9.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to

rewrite the received search query comprises:

identifying entity identifiers associated with documents that were selected in

connection with the prior searches involving the entity name,

determining a distribution of a total number of selections for each of the identified

entity identifiers, and

determining that the received search query should be rewritten when the

distribution indicates that the total number of selections for an entity identifier associated

with the entity name is peaked compared to the total number of selections for a subset of

other ones of the identified entity identifiers.

10.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the rewriting the

~~receive~~received search query comprises:

modifying the received search query to include a restrict identifier associated with

the entity name.

11.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically

performing a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~ the rewritten search

query comprises:

searching a repository of documents using the rewritten search query ~~when the~~

~~received search query is rewritten~~.

12.   (currently amended) A system, comprising:

means for receiving a search query;

means for determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

means for determining whether to rewrite the received search query when the

received search query includes an entity name;

means for rewriting the received search query when it is determined that the

received search query should be rewritten;

means for automatically performing a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~ the rewritten search query to obtain search results in lieu of performing a search based on the received search query; and

means for providing the search results.

13.   (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a memory to store information relating to prior searches; and

a processor to:

receive a search query,

determine whether the received search query includes an entity name,

determine whether to rewrite the received search query based on the information in the memory,

rewrite the received search query when it is determined that the received search query should be rewritten based on the information in the memory,

perform a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~ the rewritten search query to obtain search results, and

present the search results.

14-26. (canceled)

27.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

obtaining an entity name;

identifying an entity identifier that corresponds to the entity name;

producing a list of candidate strings based on variations of the entity name and the entity identifier;

evaluating each of the candidate strings based on information relating to prior searches;

determining whether to include the candidate strings in a table based on the evaluating; and

using the table to rewrite a search query prior to performing a search based on the search query.

28.   (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the producing a list of candidate strings comprises:

transforming the entity name by at least one of removing modifiers, replacing spaces with hyphens or underscores, replacing hyphens or underscores with spaces, removing apostrophes, replacing "and" with "&," replacing "&" with "and," and removing "and" and "&."

29.   (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the producing a list of candidate strings comprises:

transforming the entity identifier by at least one of replacing "and" with "&," replacing "&" with "and," removing "and" and "&," removing "www.," removing ".com," and treating periods with no spaces on either side of the periods as spaces or deleting the periods.

30. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the determining whether to include the candidate strings in a table comprises:

identifying entity identifiers associated with documents that were selected in connection with the prior searches involving a candidate string of the candidate strings,

determining a total number of selections for each of the identified entity identifiers, and

determining that the candidate string should be included in the table when an entity identifier associated with the candidate string receives a total number of selections greater than other ones of the identified entity identifiers.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein the determining whether to include each of the candidate strings in a table further comprises:

determining whether the total number of selections for the entity identifier associated with the candidate string is greater than a threshold, and

determining that the candidate string should not be included in the table when the total number of selections for the entity identifier associated with the candidate string is not greater than the threshold.

32. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the determining whether to include the candidate strings in a table comprises:

identifying entity identifiers associated with documents that were selected in connection with the prior searches involving a candidate string of the candidate strings,

determining a distribution of a total number of selections for each of the identified

entity identifiers, and

determining that the candidate string should be included in the table when the

distribution indicates that the total number of selections for an entity identifier associated

with the candidate string is peaked compared to the total number of selections for a

subset of other ones of the identified entity identifiers.

33.   (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the using the table to rewrite a

search query comprises:

receiving a search query that includes a variation of the entity name or the entity

identifier,

determining whether the variation of the entity name or the entity identifier is

included in the table, and

rewriting the search query when the variation of the entity name or the entity

identifier is included in the table.

34.   (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the rewriting the search query

comprises:

modifying the search query to include a restrict identifier associated with the

entity name.

35.   (currently amended) A system, comprising:

means for obtaining an entity name;

means for generating a list of candidate strings based on variations of the entity name;

means for evaluating each of the candidate strings based on information relating to prior searches to obtain evaluation results;

means for determining whether to include the candidate strings in a table based on the evaluation results; and

means for using the table to rewrite a search query prior to performing a search based on the search query.

36.   (original) A system, comprising:

a memory to store information relating to prior searches; and

a processor to:

identify an entity name,

generate variations of the entity name,

evaluate each of the variations of the entity name based on information relating to prior searches to determine whether to include the variations of the entity name in a table, and

use the table to rewrite a search query prior to performing a search based on the search query.

37.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

obtaining an entity name;

generating variations of the entity name;

evaluating each of the variations of the entity name based on information relating

to prior searches;

determining whether to include the variations of the entity name in a table based

on the evaluating;

receiving a search query that includes one of the variations of the entity name;

determining whether the one variation of the entity name is included in the table;

and

suggesting a different search query for the received search query when the one

variation of the entity name is included in the table.

38.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a search query;

determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

determining whether to rewrite the received search query based on information

relating to prior searches involving the entity name;

rewriting the received search query when it is determined that the received search

query should be rewritten based on the information relating to the prior searches;

determining whether to provide a suggestion of rewriting the received search

query, as a rewriting suggestion, based on information relating to prior searches involving

the entity name when it is determined that the received search query should not be

rewritten;

generating the rewriting suggestion when it is determined that the rewriting

suggestion should be provided;

automatically performing a search based on one of the received search query ~~and~~

or the rewritten search query to obtain search results;

presenting the search results; and

presenting the rewriting suggestion when it is determined that the rewriting

suggestion should be provided.

39.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a search query;

determining whether the received search query includes a store name;

~~determining whether to rewrite the received search query based on information relating to prior searches involving the store name;~~

selectively rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier

associated with the store name ~~when it is determined that the received search query should be rewritten~~based on information relating to prior searches involving the store

name;

performing a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~ the rewritten

search query to obtain search results when the received search query is rewritten; and

presenting the search results.

40.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a search query;

determining whether the received search query includes a name of a news source;

~~determining whether to rewrite the received search query based on information~~

~~relating to prior searches involving the name of the news source;~~

selectively rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier

associated with the name of the news source ~~when it is determined that the received~~

~~search query should be rewritten~~based on information relating to prior searches involving

the name of the news source;

performing a search based on ~~one of the received search query and~~ the rewritten

search query to obtain search results when the received search query is rewritten; and

presenting the search results.

41.   (new) A method, comprising:

identifying an entity name;

generating variations of the entity name;

evaluating each of the variations of the entity name based on information relating

to prior searches;

determining whether to include the variations of the entity name in a first table or

a second table based on the evaluating;

receiving a search query that includes one of the variations of the entity name;

determining whether the one variation of the entity name is included in the first

table or the second table;

automatically rewriting the received search query if the one variation of the entity

name is included in the first table; and

suggesting a different search query for the received search query when the one

variation of the entity name is included in the second table.